

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

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E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

800/842-2610, extension 3743

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www.hud.gov/virginia

ARE YOU READY?

The General Section of HUD's 2007 SuperNOFA was published in the January 18th *Federal Register*. It sets forth rules and regulations governing all of more than 40 HUD funding competitions. If you're thinking of applying for HUD funds this year, it's a document you should read, read and read again. Link to the General Section at www.hud.gov/virginia.

NEW FHA LIMITS

Fannie Mae and FHA didn't raise nationwide mortgage insurance limits on January 1st because of a market slowdown. But FHA did increase limits in 26 cities and counties in "high cost" markets on January 1st. FHA limits in the Richmond metro area rose 2 percent; in Charlottesville metro rose 16.2 percent and in the Winchester area rose 43.5 percent. FHA has insured 850,000 mortgages in Virginia.

SHELTER FROM THE STORM

The Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women has set February 22nd as the deadline for local governments and groups "that have a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking" to apply for grants of up to \$350,000 to provide transitional housing, short term assistance and supportive services. For more, visit www.usdoj.gov/ovw

BRIEF BRIEFS

Department of Social Services launches Emergency Response Disaster Relief & Recovery Network for faith- and community groups at www.dss.virginia.gov/community/disaster.html. . . National Park Service sets April 26th as deadline to apply for Save America's Treasures grants of up to \$700,000 nationally significant collections or properties. . . Lori Chapman of Real Estate III becomes President of Charlottesville Association of REALTORS. . . Governor Kaine awards \$12.5 million to communities affected by recommendation of Base Realignment & Closing Commission. . . Contact Virginia Community Development Corporation's lfahart@vacdc.org or 804/343-1200 to attend Spring 2007 Tax Credit Compliance Conference March 29th and 30th in Virginia Beach. . . *Daily Press* says Newport News Redevelopment & Housing to "go green" in renovation of apartment complex for seniors. . . Contact matt.fitzgerald@dhcd.virginia.gov for DHCD Indoor Plumbing & Rehab workshop February 6th and 7th in Charlottesville. . . Assistant Secretary Kendrick says HUD to translate model lease into Spanish, French, Korean, Portuguese, Amharic, Russian and Chinese. . . Housing Partnership of Williamsburg "rescues" a house from wrecking ball and moves it a block to rehab and resell. . . *Daily Progress* says Charlottesville Association of REALTORS buys home built by Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center students to boost affordable housing in Scottsville. . . Chesapeake City Council names new recreation center in memory of late city manager, Clarence Cuffee. . . January 30th *Federal Register* makes HUD multi-family projects for elderly in Presidentially-declared disaster areas eligible to apply for \$30 million Emergency Capital Repair Funds grants.

HUD WANTS TO KNOW

As Americans grow older, FHA's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage has become one of its fastest-growing products. To "enable elderly homeowners to make more informed decisions" about HECM products, the January 8th *Federal Register* proposed a rule to "establish testing standards to qualify individuals as HECM counselors" and to establish a "roster of eligible HECM counselors and providers." Comments on the proposed rule are due at HUD's Office of General Counsel by March 9th. If you have a view, HUD would like to hear it.

BANK BOOST

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta has awarded \$1,001,050 to Virginia in the 2nd round of 2006 Affordable Housing Program grants. The funds are awarded to partnerships of FHLB member banks and community groups and are expected to produce or preserve 284 housing units. This round's winners included partnerships between Peninsula Habitat and Old Point National Bank, BB&T and SERCAP and Community Housing Partners, RBC Centura Bank and Community Housing Partners and the Bank of the James and Rush Lifetime Homes.

SPEAKING OF WHICH. . .

Learn more about how Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta Affordable Housing Fund works at DHCD's "How to Apply" workshops in Roanoke February 13th or in Richmond February 14th. Contact Ramona.chapman@dhcd.virginia.gov or call 804/371-7167.

TAX TIME

April 15th fast approaches. Bad news for some, of course but not for thousands of working Virginia families due Earned Income Tax Credit refunds that average \$1,600 a family. But up to a quarter of these families don't know they're due. Using a \$230,000 grant from the General Assembly, the Virginia Community Action Partnership has set up Virginia Cash Campaign free tax preparation programs across the Commonwealth to help them claim EITC refunds they're owed. For a list of programs, visit www.hud.gov/virginia

BRIEF BRIEFS TOO

DHCD and Lenowisco PDC win total of \$191,625 in USDA Rural Community Development Initiative grants to promote housing and community development projects. . . Virginia Association of REALTORS meets in Richmond February 7th to 9th. . . William & Mary's Project HOPE-Virginia hosting seminar for local schools' homeless coordinators March 20th and 21st. . . Danville-Pittsylvania Habitat wins grant from Community Foundation of Dan River. . . VDEM holding disaster response workshop for local government in Charlottesville, March 14th. . . *Virginian Pilot* says Hampton Roads Habitat returning after 3 year absence to Virginia Beach to build house and 10-unit townhouse. . . Appalachian Regional Commission hosts "Energizing Appalachia: Regional Approaches for Effective Energy Development" conference in Alexandria March 11th to 13th. . . James City County Housing Office says plans are almost done for "first affordable senior housing complex" in county to be built by Bay Aging. . . A.C.O.R.N. holds free Restoration Lending Workshop in Richmond February 10th. . . *Register Bee* says Danville City Manager proposes rental inspection program. . . Housing Opportunities Made Equal opening branch office in Portsmouth. . . Virginia Small Business Financing Authority lengthens terms and lowers interest rate on its direct loans.

DON'T FORGET

Effective Friday, February 23rd, HUD Richmond will have new phone numbers. Our main numbers – 804/771-2100 and 800/842-2610 – will stay the same. But to reach a specific person at HUD Richmond, check the directory at www.hud.gov/virginia

Don't want to receive future issues of Virginia HUD Lines? Delete yourself by replying to this e-transmission with the message "Signoff VIRGINIA-HUD LINES-L" in the body of your reply message.